



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.com

www.iowanaturestore.com

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653
mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us

Oct. 3, 2006

1. Successful Deer, Turkey Hunters Must Report Harvest [electronic image of tag available]
2. Rose Rosette Disease – The Promise of a Biological Control for Multiflora Rose [electronic photos are available]
3. The Change of Seasons – by Joe Wilkinson
4. Chilly Weather not an Issue for DNR Volunteers
5. Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Gains Federal Approval
6. Cedar Rock Under Moonlight

[Electronic image of the tag is available upon request]
Successful Deer, Turkey Hunters Must Report Harvest

Hunters successfully harvesting a deer or wild turkey are reminded they must report their harvest by midnight of the day following their successful hunt. The new reporting requirement was approved by the Iowa Legislature during the 2006 session.

“This information is going to give us much better data on the harvest and where the harvest is taking place,” said Jeff Joens, an executive officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources wildlife bureau. “The reporting system has been designed with voice recognition to help hunters while in the field, report their harvest correctly.”

To report, hunters will need to provide the harvest registration number and the Iowa county where the animal was harvested. For deer, hunters will need to report the sex of the animal. For turkey, hunters will be asked if the animal was harvested on public or private land, the length of the beard and length of the spurs.

Hunters need to remember to keep the transportation tag clean while field dressing the animal. It may be helpful for hunters to write down their harvest registration number or photocopy their tag in case the tag tears, smears or otherwise becomes illegible. Hunters can report via the DNR website or by a toll free phone number that is printed on the transportation tag.

Hunters will receive a confirmation number that must be written on the transportation tag for the report to be considered complete.

“If you have a cell phone and can get a signal while in the field, you can complete the report in a few minutes before tagging the animal. If you can’t get a signal, you will have to make sure to keep the transportation tag as clean as possible and report your kill before the deadline,” Joens said.

Hunters who harvest a deer or wild turkey must report the harvest to the DNR by midnight of the day after it is killed, before taking it to a locker, before processing it for consumption or before leaving the state. If no animal is harvested, no report is necessary.

For more information, contact Mick Klemesrud at 515-281-8653.

###

[electronic photos are available]

ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE – THE PROMISE OF A BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FOR MULTIFLORA ROSE.

Anyone who spends time trekking around Iowa’s woodlands or timbered pastures has probably tangled with multiflora rose, an invasive exotic shrub. Multiflora Rose occurs frequently in pastures and open woodlands and infrequently in undisturbed well stocked forests. This plant was introduced to North America back in the 1800s where it was first used as rootstock for ornamental roses. In the mid-1900s it was promoted as a conservation species and a living fence. The fruits, called hips, are eaten by wildlife which spread the seeds far-and-wide.

Because of its numerous thorns, multiflora rose is unpalatable to most livestock. It will spread rather quickly in the absence of other plant competition. Such conditions occur in over-grazed pastures. The most common control methods include digging, mowing burning, or spraying with herbicides. All of these methods can be time consuming and expensive, especially on rough terrain.

A new disease was discovered on rose species in Canada in 1940, called Rose Rosette disease, and was thought to be caused by a virus or virus-like organism. Over the years it has spread to many states in the Midwest, including Iowa. This disease, first found in Iowa near the town of Troy, has spread from the south and is now quite common throughout the state. Though this disease can occur on many species in the rose family, it commonly infects multiflora rose. Once infected, it takes from 2 to 5 years to eventually kill a plant. Early symptoms include a deep red color on the undersides of leaves. Infected stems grow vigorously with a pink to magenta color. As the disease

develops, leaves become deformed and shrunken with a bright red color. The leave can turn yellow prior to turning brown and dying.

How this disease spreads is not well understood, but it is believed to be spread by a tiny insect called an eriophyid mite. These mites act as vectors to spread the disease from plant to plant as they feed. These mites are relatively weak flyers. This disease can be spread to tame roses in your garden. However, they are probably relatively safe from contracting this disease as long as other infected plants are farther than 300 feet away.

If you have questions on how to control multi-flora rose, contact your district forester. Foresters can be found by logging on to <http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/district.html> or contacting Forestry Supervisor Paul Tauke at 515/242-6898.

###

THE CHANGE OF SEASONS

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

And just like that; the seasons change.

The sumac went from tinges to full, dusky reds. A lot of the ‘yellows,’ cottonwoods and ash are really pronounced now, even though much of the foliage is still green. Lows in the 30s, even a little mild frost in places, seem to have pushed lots—but not all—of the pelicans and other shorebirds south. It doesn’t happen every year, but it seems like the fall *season*, showed up just as the calendar turned to Fall, too.

Of course, the changing landscape and cooler temperatures usher in the fall outdoor seasons, as well. Whether you watch it, hunt it or hike it; there just isn’t time to fit it all in, between now and about Christmas.

Fall Colors. Over the next couple weeks, the fall foliage show will peak. Generally moving from north to south in Iowa, the change in color comes as chlorophyll production slows; due to sunlight periods, temperatures, even acidity and trace minerals in the soil. There is a lot of science involved, but the bottom line is; you can enjoy a heck of a show, as you watch the walnut, ash, hickory elm, some soft maple and bur oaks (which turn yellow), the hard maples, red oaks, white oaks (from brilliant to soft reds) and shrubs and other plants like sumac, virginia creeper (often bright red) start to turn.

Many state and county parks are excellent spots to watch the seasonal change; but just about anywhere with good tree cover will do; river corridors, city parks, even old neighborhoods if you don’t want to leave the city. My favorite spot? It would have to be the view from Highway 13, as it winds north out of Strawberry Point, in northeast Iowa.

The alternating green pastures, unpicked cornfields and hardwood forest hills make it hard to beat. A close second would be just on the Mississippi River, just about anywhere from Guttenberg north. Stay up to date by logging on to the Department of Natural Resources website (www.iowadnr.com/forestry/fallcolor.html) or call 515 233-4100)

Head to the Parks. Besides the lure of fall color, a day or weekend at most state parks is worth the trip, too. Fall temperatures make it logical to sit around a campfire, rather than a sweaty chore, as you sometimes get in the summer. As the air temperatures cool, so do water temps. That kicks in the fall feeding urge for most fish species. They're building up body fat to get through the winter, when near-freezing water slows their metabolism to an almost robot-stage. The park trails are great for a fast or slow paced hike; especially if the first leaves have fallen, providing a better look at wildlife.

Ducks Are Flying. Iowa's early duck season has ended. The late season gets underway in October. The early duck season opener yielded some pretty good results across the state. "It was one of the best openers I've seen, in terms of ducks bagged. Almost no one went home empty handed on Saturday (September 23)," reports Tim Thompson, wildlife biologist for the Department of Natural Resources. "There were a lot of blue-winged teal and, surprisingly, mallards. Probably more mallards than wood ducks." Thompson, who checked around the Hawkeye Wildlife Area in Johnson County, also reports seeing green-winged teal, as well as a couple widgeon, gadwall, pintails and shovelers.

'Up North,' there were lots of ducks in the bag, too. "We had excellent numbers of blue-winged teal; especially on those shallow prairie wetlands; loaded with aquatic food," notes the DNR's Lowell Washburn; from Cerro Gordo County. "It was the best early opener in six or seven years. Along the rivers, there were wood ducks, but not as many."

Bow Season Opens. Saving the best for last of course, Iowa deer hunting kicked off October 1, as bow season began. Actually, youth hunters, disabled hunters and those hunting in some urban areas have been in their stands since September 16. In fact, Cedar Rapids bow hunters had already taken 75 antlerless deer by last Tuesday.

"It's going to be slow in the first few days," estimates Thompson. "The big bucks are starting to scout out the larger doe populations and mark their territories. They'll be pushing the younger bucks out in the coming weeks. Does, meanwhile, will ignore the bucks for a few weeks, yet." The slow period is a good time for hunters to fill an antlerless tag or two; without knocking the big bucks out of their patterns with a lot of human activity. "Find good trails along the edges of crop fields," suggests Thompson. "Find out where the deer come by in the early season. There won't be a lot of heavy buck activity until the first cold snap and then later in the month, as daylight periods drop and hormone levels rise."

Most of my hours are logged during bow season; with an antlerless tag or two, in addition to my 'regular' bow permit. However, with the second-year 'Thanksgiving

weekend' season and with a few novice hunters coming along now in the second shotgun season, we are beginning to put more pressure on the area. Also, the area's first season hunters reluctantly have started taking a few antlerless deer, instead of complaining about 'too many deer' the rest of the year. What a concept (sarcasm intended)!

And all this kicks into gear, just because the weather has taken a couple subtle turns. The outdoor season is here.

###

CHILLY WEATHER NOT AN ISSUE FOR DNR VOLUNTEERS

DES MOINES — As the leaves change and the weather starts to get chilly, Keepers of the Land, a volunteer program with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), offers several volunteer opportunities during the upcoming autumn months.

- **Tree Planting/Dispersal Events:** Help plant some shade at these dispersal events. These activities are great for adult and youth groups and include unloading trees from nursery trucks, as well as other customer service tasks. For more information on these events taking place in Guthrie County (October 7), Scott County (October 7), Appanoose County (October 14), Pottawattamie County (October 14), Lee County (October 21), and Johnson County (October 21) please visit the Keepers of the Land calendar of events at www.keepersoftheland.org for more information.
- **Prairie Seed Harvest and Education:** Volunteers are needed to help with prairie seed maintenance in Boone. The commitment is flexible according to volunteers' weekend schedules and is a great opportunity for individuals to learn the basics of prairie seed harvest and planting. For more information please contact Bill Johnson by phone at 515.432.2823 or email at William.johnson@dnr.state.ia.us.
- **River Bank Tree Removal:** Help keep the Raccoon River's banks looking great by contributing to this event. Some tools will be available but chainsaws will not be provided. Work can be potentially strenuous. For more information please contact Tim Gedler by phone at 515.285.4502 or email at tim.gedler@dnr.state.ia.us.
- **Prairie Management:** Volunteers will be enlisted to cut brush in invasive places on the prairie. Tools will be provided to all who come along with on-site training. Individuals are asked to wear long sleeves, pants, and gloves if they wish to help out. For more information please contact Tim Halverson by phone at 563.425.4161 or email at Volga_River@dnr.state.ia.us.

Please visit the Keepers of the Land website at www.keepersoftheland.org for information on these and more volunteer opportunities.

For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us.

###

IOWA'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN GAINS FEDERAL APPROVAL

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has received final approval from the U.S. Department of Interior for its new "Wildlife Action Plan". This approval completes nearly three years of plan development and review, allowing Iowa to be qualified for continued annual federal funding under the State Wildlife Grants Program.

Originally known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan, the document was required of all states and territories receiving State Wildlife Grants funds appropriated annually by Congress. Since 2001, Iowa DNR has received approximately \$4.3 million which has been matched by nearly \$3 million in state and private funds. The money is intended primarily to benefit 296 species of declining birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, land snails and freshwater mussels identified in the new Iowa Wildlife Action Plan.

Projects in Iowa to date have included protection of nearly 3,000 acres of critical habitat and new research projects on everything from bobcats and butterflies to forest songbirds and southwest Iowa stream fish. DNR has used some of the funding to re-publish its popular *Bats of Iowa* booklet and to assist with Trumpeter Swan restoration.

DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator, Doug Harr, is particularly excited about two projects. "We've just completed construction of, and moved some Wildlife Bureau staff to, our new prairie seed production and harvest facility located at Brushy Creek Recreation Area, near Fort Dodge," said Harr. "This will allow DNR to produce a variety of prairie grass and wildflower seed for enhancing prairie restorations on public lands across Iowa, in turn improving habitat diversity required by everything from Grasshopper Sparrows to smooth green snakes, plus many other species in decline."

The second project that has Harr enthused is new research in Ringgold County which incorporates both livestock grazing and controlled "patch burning". State Wildlife Grant money allocated through DNR has been used by wildlife researchers at Iowa State University to leverage funding from several other sources. "This permits ground-breaking research that promises improved grassland habitat for wildlife while improving pasture for cattle operators," Harr continued. "In an agricultural state like ours, new management techniques that might benefit both wildlife and cattle offer incredible opportunities to build bridges between what sometimes have been considered opposing interests."

Due to the pending national elections, Congress has not yet appropriated State Wildlife Grant funds for 2007. Harr indicated this would be a great time for Iowans to contact their U.S. Representative and Senators, asking them to approve funding the State Wildlife Grants program at least at the level of 2006 funding. Harr concluded, "It was a promise Congress made when requiring states to complete their Wildlife Action Plans, so now Congress must in return be held accountable."

To view a brief summary of the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan, including photos of some State Wildlife Grant funded projects, visit the following website:
www.teaming.com/summary_reports/Iowa.pdf .

###

[Electronic photos are available by sending an email to Pat Schmitz at
Pat.Schmitz@dnr.state.ia.us.]

CEDAR ROCK UNDER MOONLIGHT

Cedar Rock the Walter House, designed by world famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1946 for Lowell and Agnes Walter, rests upon the brow of a limestone bluff overlooking the east bank of the Wapsipinicon River. Cedar Rock the Walter House is the heart and cornerstone of Cedar Rock State Park.

Start the fall off right with the sixth annual "Cedar Rock Under Moonlight. This family-oriented evening runs from 6 to 9 p.m., October 7.

Cedar Rock State Park is just outside Quasqueton at 2611 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd. Quasqueton is 45 minutes east of Waterloo via U.S. Hwy 20, or an hour west of Dubuque. From the south, Cedar Rock is 30 minutes north of Cedar Rapids on county road W-35.

Cedar Rock is funded through the Walter Charitable Trust Fund. This is a fund-raising event, guests are asked to donate \$3. Donations are never required, but needed, and always appreciated. For more information call the visitor center at (319) 934-3572, or e-mail the park at Cedar_Rock@dnr.state.ia.us.

For more information, contact Pat Schmitz at 319-934-3572.

###